

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India

2. Kindly refer to the letter dated 1st June, 2017 from Dr. Edgar Gutierrez-Espeleta, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, President of the UN Environment Assembly requesting member states for additional input to the draft Ministerial Declaration for 2017 United Nations Environment Assembly.

3. I am directed to forward the following additional input from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, to be incorporated in the Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document of UNEA 2017 :

(i) To be added under subhead “**Vision**” of the Draft outline document

- *“Increase efforts to prevent deforestation and forest degradation worldwide through sustainable forest management.”*

(ii) To be added under subhead “**Transforming Steps and Actions**”

- *“Forest Protection: Forests have been providing ecological services as well as supplying fuel wood to the poor. Increase in urbanization, however, has also meant deterioration of air quality, increase in air temperature, noise level, and water and land pollution. Forests emerge as an exciting opportunity to help a) mitigate climate change, b) ameliorate air pollution, c) improve the overall water regime, d) nurture urban biodiversity and e) provide shade and reduce ambient temperatures and the heat-island effect.”*

“significantly increase the forests and tree cover in all countries with greater resource allocation for conservation of soil, moisture, flora and fauna of the ecosystem and maximum carbon sequestration in trees and forest ecosystem.”